

June 19, 2014 Community Discussion Meeting - **Downtown YMCA**
"Neighborhood Interest Area"

Question Responses and Small-Table Discussion Summary

Attendance - 25 people (plus 2 Committee members and 5 staff)

Identifying long-term investment spending priorities; Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

QUESTION: Prioritize future City spending within the following three general categories of infrastructure investment (Priority #1, #2, #3) (20 complete responses)

<u>Spending Priority</u>	<u>Categories of Investment</u>		
80% #1	20% #2	0% #3	Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has
15% #1	70% #2	15% #3	Making enhancements to what the city currently has
5% #1	10% #2	85% #3	Expanding the city's current system of public assets

QUESTION: Check future City spending priorities within each of the following types of infrastructure projects (23 complete responses)

Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Repairing and maintaining existing local streets</i>	0	7	15
<i>Replacing and maintaining aging water & sewer lines</i>	0	5	18
<i>Maintaining existing parks and recreation centers</i>	2	8	13
<i>Maintaining existing cultural arts and entertainment facilities</i>	7	7	9
<i>Maintaining existing libraries</i>	1	10	12
<i>Maintaining existing transit system</i>	2	10	11
<i>Maintaining existing fire and police facilities</i>	2	9	12

Expanding the city's current system of public assets:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Constructing the NW Bypass (Goddard to Maize)</i>	19	4	0
<i>Adding new streets</i>	21	2	1
<i>Adding new water & sewer lines</i>	14	6	3
<i>Adding sewer treatment plant capacity</i>	5	12	5
<i>Adding new parks</i>	8	11	4
<i>Adding new fire stations and upgrading police facilities</i>	6	17	0

Making enhancements to what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Kellogg freeway improvements to Goddard and Butler County</i>	14	6	3
<i>Constructing South Area Parkway Bypass (around south Wichita)</i>	20	2	1
<i>Securing long-term water supply</i>	0	5	18
<i>Upgrading existing parks</i>	3	11	9
<i>Upgrading existing cultural arts & entertainment facilities</i>	11	4	8
<i>Upgrading existing libraries</i>	4	10	9
<i>Major transit system/service improvements (Transit Vision 2013)</i>	3	7	12

DISCUSSION: *What projects and investments are most critical to Wichita's future?*

- Investments in securing a reasonably priced, long-term water supply
- Maintaining and replacing our existing infrastructure assets/what we have, especially bringing our local streets and water/sewer system up to acceptable standards
- Investments in our public libraries
- Improvements to our existing public transit system
- Investment in public safety (fire, police, clean air and water)
- Investments in our existing parks and in cultural arts/entertainment facilities that reflect our community and connects people
- Neighborhood and urban core area investments are needed in a networked, block-by-block, coordinated manner that integrates all infrastructure category needs (e.g. water, sewer, streets, parks) and helps achieve long-term cost savings
- Need new central library to help attract and retain young professionals
- Investments that will help retain our youth and attract future generations of younger workers to our community
- Consider TIF or other types of financial incentives to restart Joyland – an important piece of our culture
- Passenger rail connections to OKC, Dallas and Kanas City
- Neighborhood policing programs
- Recreational improvements and connecting our system of bike paths

QUESTION: *Recognizing that growth in all areas of Wichita is necessary for enhancing the quality of life in our community, rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (22 complete responses)*

Rank			
1	Established Urban Core	82% best	18% 2 nd best 0% 3 rd best
2	Downtown	18% best	64% 2 nd best 18% 3 rd best
3	Suburbs	4% best	14% 2 nd best 82% 3 rd best

% of Respondents Currently Living in:

Established Urban Core	71%
Downtown	14%
Suburbs	10%
Other	5%

DISCUSSION: *How best should Wichita grow over the next 20 years?*

- Maintaining and revitalizing our urban core area needs to be a top priority. The urban core has diversity, affordable housing stock and established cultural infrastructure
- City should not develop road systems that encourage people to live far from our urban core and the downtown. In the future, seniors and millenials will want easier access to healthcare, services, etc.
- Future suburban growth should target existing vacant or under-utilized properties rather consuming producing agricultural lands
- A strong downtown is important to our community
- Enough money has been spent to strengthen our downtown – let's now focus on strengthening our urban core.
- Maintaining our existing infrastructure throughout all areas of our city
- Growth priority areas should be as follows – urban core; downtown; suburbs. Start from the center and work out towards the perimeter, improving neighborhoods, adding density and developing vacant properties
- People won't relocate to our community because of nice streets – create a place where people will want to live
- Promote our community around amenities we already have – a great and unique downtown, libraries, great parks in our urban core, etc.
- The 13th Street N. corridor needs commercial redevelopment
- Build upon our excellent arts community
- Greater connectivity and mobility options (bicycling, public transit, pedestrian) are needed within the urban core and WSU, retail areas, cultural events and museums

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

DISCUSSION: What would you want an elected official to consider when making decisions about investing in new capital projects, modifying existing projects, or eliminating existing capital projects?

- Invest only as we are able to afford that investment
- Consider pertinent data and information in order to determine how the community will benefit from the investment – rely on accurate information, not just opinions
- Invest in what will help keep people in our community – consider the impact of our investments on future generations
- Consider the impact of our investments on our natural resources and the natural environment (e.g. dust from some of the 100 plus miles of dirt streets is a health hazard to local residents)
- Consider the impact of federal and state requirements/mandates on our investment priorities
- Assess the cost-benefit and return-on-investment associated with an expenditure of public funds
- Consider best practices from other communities
- Consider how many people in the community will benefit from this project or investment of public funds – do a return-on-investment calculation on the basis of ‘benefit per capita’
- Consider the impact of public investment on private jobs creation and private investment
- Look at new job creation conservatively – is the public investment really creating more jobs, or is there overlap in jobs creation resulting from previous projects
- Refocus police efforts away from crimes without victims
- Listen to your constituents, not the development community
- Project maintenance needs should be funded before new construction projects
- Involve our students/youth in the investment decision-making process – seek out the voices we normally don’t hear from

Establishing important infrastructure investment decision-making criteria and considerations -

QUESTION: Listed below are important criteria and considerations to guide future community infrastructure investment spending and cost-reduction decisions. Please check the two (2) **most** important and the two (2) **least** important. (24 complete responses)

Importance		<u>Decision-making criteria & considerations</u>
<u>Least</u>	<u>Most</u>	
0	5	Promotes economic growth and job creation
1	14	Advances our community quality of life
0	8	Advances community health and safety
0	14	Creates a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
14	1	Priority as identified in existing adopted plans (e.g. the city/county comprehensive plan)
10	3	Essential for the future physical growth and development of our community
5	2	Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain the project
2	0	Other: OKC or Tulsa is doing it this way
3	0	Other: Incentivizing sprawl/people to live far from the urban core
1	0	Other: Smaller government is the answer
2	0	Other: Investments in Joyland
0	1	Other: Getting rid of dust from the city’s dirt streets- protecting air and water quality
0	1	Other: Public art investment in northeast Wichita

DISCUSSION: What are the most important decision-making criteria?

- Advancing the quality of life of our community
- Creating future economic growth and job creation
- Making investments that will create a place that is attractive to future generations
- Investments that will protect our air and water quality and promote public health and safety
- Investment in high-speed Internet connections should be a high priority
- The creation of good jobs and quality of life investments will help keep and attract the next generation of our workforce

Any other things or issues needing to be addressed or considered in the Community Investments Plan? -

DISCUSSION:

- Promote what we have to offer as a community – an affordable place to live; bikeable at 5:00 p.m.; centrally located in the nation